

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Rosenberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0035854 A1, herein "Rosenberg") in view of Wood et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2006/0181179 A1, herein "Wood").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Rosenberg is directed to devices used to interface with electronic devices and which provide haptic feedback to a user. The outstanding Office Action concedes that Rosenberg does not teach or suggest that when one of a first and second actuator units expands, the other contracts, each of the first and second actuator units having multi-layered piezoelectric element layer, as recited in Claim 1. To remedy this deficiency, the Office Action relies on Wood.

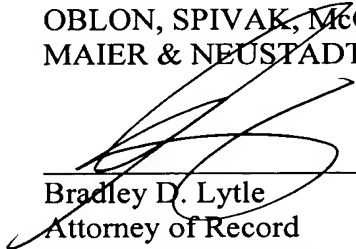
Applicants submit that Wood was filed on February 11, 2005. The present application claims priority to August 19, 2003, based on PCT/JP03/10469. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Wood was not published in this country before Applicants' filing date. Thus, Wood is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Furthermore, it is submitted that Wood is not prior art under § 102(b), because Wood was not published in this country more than one year prior to Applicants' filing date. Applicants further submit that Wood is not prior art under § 102(e), because Wood was not filed in the United States before Applicants' filing date. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Wood cannot properly be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Because, as the Office Action concedes, Rosenberg does not teach or suggest every limitation recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Rosenberg. Furthermore, because Rosenberg does not teach or suggest the vibration generation device recited in Claim 1, Applicants further submit that Rosenberg also fails to teach or suggest the vibration generation device recited in Claim 14. Hence, it is submitted that Claims 1 and 14 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over Rosenberg.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-17 patentably distinguishes over Rosenberg. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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